

For a web link to *Terms of Environment: Glossary, Abbreviations, and Acronyms*, which defines in non-technical language the more commonly used environmental terms appearing in EPA publications, please see:

 <http://www.epa.gov/OCEPAt/terms/intro.htm>

Click on the first letter of the word/s you want to look up under terms, then find the word/s.

A

Abatement – Reduction in degree or intensity.

Adverse Effect – Occurs when an effect on an historic property diminishes the integrity of the property's aspects of integrity (see below). See also **Determination of Effect**. [Criteria of adverse Effect: 36 CFR 800.9(b).]

Adverse Impacts – Determined by those individuals potentially impacted by the Action through demographic analysis and early public involvement. Adverse impacts, (as defined by USDOT) and as applied to environmental justice, “may include, but are not limited to: air, noise, and water pollution and soil contamination; destruction or disruption of man-made or natural resources; destruction or diminution of aesthetic values; destruction or disruption of community cohesion or a community's economic vitality; destruction or disruption of the availability of public and private facilities and service; vibration; adverse employment effects; displacement of persons, businesses, farms, or nonprofit organization; increased traffic congestion; isolation, exclusion or separation of minority or low-income individuals from the broader community; and the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits of DOT programs, policies, or activities.” Individuals potentially affected by the project should be identified through demographic analysis and targeted for early public involvement.

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation – An independent federal agency, established under the NHPA, which: (1) advises the President and Congress on matters of historic preservation; (2) carries out Section 106 reviews; and 3) provides technical assistance in historic preservation actions.

Affect (Verb) – Action that may change the character of an historic property.

Air Study (or Air Quality Technical Report) – A quantitative evaluation for dispersion of carbon monoxide or qualitative evaluation for PM₁₀ of pollutant emissions designed to address emissions from the operation of the built project. This evaluation should also include discussion of construction phase emissions such as fugitive dust, odors, and asbestos if applicable.

Anadromous Fish – Species that hatch in freshwater, mature in saltwater, and return to freshwater to spawn.

Approval – General term referring to any document other than a permit that needs a signature by someone in authority at the agency having statutory jurisdiction over that activity. The document may be called an approval, certification, concurrence, easement, or license, all of which represent an agency saying, “Yes we authorize you to conduct this activity as long as you do it in this manner.” An approval may specify conditions under which the activity is approved.

Aquifer Recharge Area – Area which has a critical replenishing effect on aquifers used for potable water.

Area of Potential Effects (APE) – The geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. APE should be defined before historic properties are identified. APE is not defined on the basis of land ownership, and should be determined based upon potential direct *and* indirect effects. [36 CFR 800.2(c).]

Aspects of Integrity – The seven (7) physical features of historic properties as they relate to properties' significance: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. See Integrity below, and National Register *Bulletin* 15, pp. 44-45.

B

Background Noise – The total of all noise in a system or situation, independent of state highway traffic noise under study.

Baffle – Flow-deflecting structure that provides low-velocity resting water for the passage of fish.

Barrier – A solid wall or earth berm located between the roadway and receiver location that provides noise reduction.

Base Flood Elevation (BFE) – This refers to the calculated or estimated 100-year flood water surface elevation.

Building – A construction created to shelter any form of human activity, including animal husbandry.

C

Candidate Species – Any species of fish, wildlife, or plant considered for possible addition to the list of endangered and threatened species. These are *taxa* for which NOAA Fisheries or USFWS has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support issuance of a proposal to list, but issuance of a proposed rule is currently precluded by higher priority listing actions.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) – A by-product of the burning of fuels in motor vehicle engines. Though this gas has no color or odor, it can be dangerous to human health. Motor vehicles are the main source of carbon monoxide, which is generally a wintertime problem during still, cold conditions.

Categorical Exclusion/Exemption – An action that does not individually or cumulatively have a significant environmental effect, as defined in NEPA/SEPA regulations, and is classified as excluded (NEPA) or exempt (SEPA) from requirements to prepare an Environmental Assessment/Checklist or Environmental Impact Statement.

Certified Historic Structure – A depreciable building or structure which is either listed in the National Register or located in a National Register Historic District, or in a state- or local-designated historic district, and certified by the Secretary of the Interior as being of historical significance to (i.e., a contributing element in) the district. [36 CFR 67.2.]

Certified Local Governments (CLGs) – Local government historic preservation entities participating in the national historic preservation program, certified by the SHPO. Existence may afford property owners in the CLG jurisdiction the opportunity to participate in local (state, county, etc.) preservation incentives (e.g., tax incentives).

Certified Rehabilitation – On a certified historic property (see definition), work that is certified by the Secretary of the Interior as being consistent with the historic character of the property and, where applicable, with the district in which it is located. [36 CFR 67.2.]

Community Enhancement Areas – Features such as community gateways, roadside parks, viewpoints, agricultural uses, and historic markers.

Community Impact Assessment (CIA) – A process to evaluate the effects of a transportation action on a community and its quality of life. The assessment process should include all items of importance to people, such as mobility, safety, employment effects, relocation, isolation and other community issues.

Compensatory Mitigation – The restoration, creation, enhancement, or in exceptional circumstances, preservation of wetlands and/or other aquatic resources expressly for the purpose of compensating for unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization have been achieved. (See also **Mitigation Bank**.)

Conceptual Mitigation Plan – A document that includes the transportation project description, wetland impacts, and discussion of the mitigation concepts.

Concurrency – The requirement to have needed infrastructure (e.g. roads, sewers, water systems) in place or planned and funded within six years of permitting and development in the jurisdiction where the development is located. The concurrency process was established through the GMA.

Condition or Provision – Requirement attached to a permit specifying, usually in some detail, the terms under which the permitted activity may be conducted; for example, use of best management practices, seasonal work windows, and notification requirements.

Conformity – Projects are in conformity when they do not (1) cause or contribute to any new violation of any standards in any area, (2) increase the frequency or severity of any existing violation of any standard in any area, or (3) delay timely attainment of any standard or any required interim emission reductions or other milestones in any area (USEPA's Conformity Rule).

Constructed Wetlands – Areas created or restored specifically to treat either point or nonpoint source pollution wastewater. Although a constructed wetland might look the same as a created wetland, different regulations apply. Design and maintenance of constructed wetlands is determined according to their stormwater and hydraulic functions. Vegetation is used to maximize the desired functions.

Contaminant – Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter that has an adverse affect on air, water, or soil.

Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) – A proposed transportation project is planned not only for its physical aspects as a facility serving specific transportation objectives, but also for its effects on the aesthetic, social, economic and environmental values, needs, constraints and opportunities in a larger community setting.

Contributing Element (or Resource) – A building, site, structure, or object that adds to the historic architectural qualities, historic associations, or archaeological values for which a property is significant because: (a) it was present during the period of significance, and possesses historic integrity reflecting its character at that time or is capable of yielding important information about the period; or (b) it independently meets the National Register criteria. See National Register *Bulletin 16A*, p. 16.

Corps Permits – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issues two major permits: the Clean Water Act Section 404 permit for discharge of dredge and fill material into U.S. waters, and the Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 permit for work in navigable waters. They are commonly referred to in tandem because the same procedures apply to both and they are often issued as a combined permit. WSDOT usually can obtain coverage under a General Permit, issued nationwide for common activities having minimal impact, and occasionally must obtain an Individual Permit for a project having significant impacts.

Corridor – Road and highway right-of-way and the adjacent area that is visible from and extending along the highway. The distance the corridor extends from the highway could vary with different intrinsic qualities.

Council (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation) – An independent federal agency that administers the Section 106 review process.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) – An oversight council established within the Executive Office of the President with passage of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The Council has been assigned the task of ensuring that federal agencies meet their obligations under NEPA. Its role is to advise and assist the President on environmental policy development; recommend strategies and oversee implementation; report, coordinate, support, interpret, and approve procedures; and issue guidance. Regulations are codified as 40 CFR 1500-1508.

Created Wetlands – (See **Establishment** below).

Criteria Considerations – Additional standards applying to certain kinds of historic properties. [36 CFR 60.4(a-g)]. See National Register *Bulletin 15*, pp. 24-43.

Criteria for Evaluation (National Register Eligibility Criteria) – Standards used for determining the eligibility of properties for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. [36 CFR 60.4(a-d)]. See National Register *Bulletin 15*, pp. 11-24.

Criteria Pollutants – Carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, ground level ozone, lead, and nitrogen dioxide.

Critical Aquifer Recharge Area (CARA) – Area designed by a city or county for protection under the Growth Management Act.

Critical Habitat – Specific area occupied by a listed species within its geographic range, which contains the physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species and which may require special protection or management considerations.

Cultural Landscape – Also known as Rural Historic Landscape or Historic Landscape. A geographical area that historically has been used by people, or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features. See National Register *Bulletin 30* and C.A. Birnbaum and C.C. Peters, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*, NPS, GPO, Washington, D.C., 1996.

Cultural Patrimony – Regarding cultural items, defined in NAGPRA as material remains of “historical, traditional, or cultural importance to the Native American group or culture itself.”

Cultural Resource – A place, object, or event that is important to a community or region’s history, traditions, beliefs, customs, or social institutions.

Cultural Resource Specialist (CRS) – A WSDOT employee in the Environmental Services Office who advises department staff on policies relating to items of historic/archaeology significance that may be affected by a project and who conducts regulatory compliance procedures.

Cultural Resources Management – The body of laws and regulations pertaining to historic, archaeological, and cultural properties, and the manner in which those directives are implemented.

Cumulative Effects (ESA) – Effects of future State or private activities, not involving Federal activities, that are reasonably certain to occur within the action area of the Federal action subject to consultation (50 CFR §402.02). This section applies only to Section 7 analysis and should not be confused with the broader use of this term in NEPA or other environmental laws. Defined in *Endangered Species Consultation Handbook*, March 1998.

Cumulative Impact/Effect (NEPA) – Impact on the environment, which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. Defined by FHWA and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1508.7).

D

Dangerous Waste – Solid wastes designated in WAC 173-303-070 through 173-303-100 as dangerous, or extremely hazardous or mixed waste. Dangerous waste includes all federal hazardous waste, plus certain wastes exhibiting specific characteristics based on toxicity and persistence.

Data Recovery Plan – A plan developed in consultation with the SHPO and interested parties for conducting research, gathering information, and documenting an historic property that will be adversely affected by a WSDOT project.

Delineated Wetlands – Wetlands whose boundaries have been identified by a qualified biologist using a standard delineation methodology evaluating soils, vegetation, and hydrology. A right of entry might be required to formally delineate a wetland for project purposes if it does not occur entirely on WSDOT right of way. The delineated boundary is flagged in the field and surveyed. The biology report includes the delineation survey with flag locations and numbering.

Design Year – The future year used to estimate the probable traffic volume for which a highway is designed, usually 10 to 20 years from the beginning of construction.

Designated River – River area added to the National Rivers System by an act of Congress.

Designed Historic Landscape – A landscape that has significance as a design or work of art; that was consciously designed and laid out to a design principle or recognized style or tradition; that has an historical association with a significant person, trend, or event in landscape architecture; or that has a significant relationship to the theory or practice of landscape architecture. See National Register *Bulletin 18*.

Determination of Effect – A finding, by a federal agency in consultation with SHPO, pursuant to compliance with Section 106 (see definition) that a proposed undertaking will have an effect on historic properties. If an effect is identified, the Criteria of Adverse Effect is applied to determine potential Adverse Effect (see definition). Other possibilities are determinations of No Effects and No Adverse Effect.

Determination of Eligibility – Formal recognition (by the SHPO, state Advisory Council, the Keeper of the National Register, or an agency) of a property's eligibility for inclusion, but not actual listing, in the National Register of Historic Places. Determinations of Eligibility may be prepared on National Register Registration Forms (NPS 10-900).

Direct Impact/Effect – A direct impact (or effect) is caused by the proposed action or alternative and occurs at the same time and place, most often during construction. Impacts may be ecological, aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health-related. For example, a highway crossing a stream may directly impact its water quality, though such impacts can be mitigated. For NEPA, see 40 CFR 1508.8.

Discipline Report – A WSDOT report prepared by Regional Offices or Divisions to document environmental studies and investigations. Discipline reports form the basis of an Environmental Impact Statement, Environmental Assessment, or Documented Categorical Exclusion.

Disproportionately High and Adverse Impact – The adverse impact is disproportionately high if it is predominately borne by a minority and/or low-income population, or if the adverse impact that could be suffered by the minority or low-income community is more severe or greater in magnitude than the adverse impact that could be suffered by the non-minority or non-low-income community. Cultural differences need to be factored into this analysis.

District – A significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. May be an archaeological or historic district, or may contain elements of both.

E

Easement (Preservation Easement) – An agreement between a private property owner and a public body obligating the owner and future owners to preserve historic features of the property. The owner surrenders opportunities for development potential at "fair market value" for income, estate, and gift tax benefits of equal value.

EDNA - Environmental designation for noise abatement, being an area or zone (environment) within which maximum permissible noise levels are established.

Effect – See **Impact**.

Eligible – A property is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places if it meets the National Register Criteria (see Criteria for Evaluation).

Endangered Species – Any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Enforceable Policies – Under the CZMA, legally binding policies (such as constitutional provisions, laws, regulations, land use plans, ordinances, or judicial or administrative decisions) by which a state exerts control over private and public land and water uses and natural resources in the coastal zone.

Enhancement – The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a wetland site to heighten, intensify or improve specific function(s) or to change the growth stage or composition of the vegetation present. Enhancement is undertaken for specified purposes such as water quality improvement, flood water retention or wildlife habitat. Activities typically consist of planting vegetation, controlling non-native or invasive species, modifying site elevations or the proportion of open water to influence hydroperiods, or some combination of these. Enhancement results in a change in wetland functions and can lead to a decline in other wetland functions, but does not result in a gain in wetland acres.

Environmental Document – Includes Environmental Assessments (NEPA), SEPA Threshold Determinations (Determination of Significance or Determination of Non-Significance) and associated Environmental SEPA Checklists, Draft and Final EISs, Section 4(f) Evaluations, Section 106 Reports, Environmental Justice Reports and other documents prepared in response to state or federal environmental requirements.

Environmental Enhancement – Going beyond mitigation to use all practical measures to harmoniously fit any proposed highway project into the adjacent communities and natural environment it traverses (1990 FHWA Environmental Policy Statement).

Environmental Justice – Refers to the process of identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse health and/or environmental effects on minority and/or low-income populations.

Environmental Review – Consideration of environmental factors as required by NEPA and SEPA. The “environmental review process” is the procedure used by agencies and others to give appropriate consideration to the environment in decision making.

Essential Public Facility – Defined in RCW 36.70A.200 to include airports, state or regional transportation facilities as defined in RCW 47.06.140, including improvements to facilities and services of statewide significance identified in the statewide multi-modal plan, and other public facilities that are difficult to site.

Establishment – The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop a wetland on an upland or deepwater site, where a wetland did not previously exist. Activities typically involve excavation of upland soils to elevations that will produce a wetland hydroperiod, hydric soils, and support the growth of hydrophytic plant species. Establishment results in a gain in wetland acres.

Evolutionarily Significant Unit – A designation used by NOAA Fisheries for certain local salmon populations or “runs” which are treated as individual species under the Endangered Species Act. This is equivalent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) “Distinct Population Segment” classification.

Exempt Projects – Listed in federal and state regulations (40 CFR 93.126 and WAC 173-420-110), these are mostly projects that maintain existing transportation facilities or are considered to have a neutral impact on air quality. See also WAC 173-420-120 for projects exempt from regional analysis.

Existing Noise Level – Natural and man made noises considered to be usually present within a particular area’s acoustic environment.

Exotic Species – Species found in, but not native to, a particular area.

F

Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance – Farmland, other than prime or unique farmland, that is of statewide or local importance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, or oil-seed crops, as determined by the state or local government agency or agencies, using U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines.

Federal Approval – Approval given to document a federal agency’s concurrence that a project complies with a federal statute. These are discussed in [Chapter 420](#) through [Chapter 470](#) because they are typically obtained earlier in project design to fulfill NEPA documentation requirements. Several are summarized in [Section 520.09](#) through [Section 520.12](#) because they may be needed later in project design: Section 7 Consultation, Section 106 Concurrence, Section 6(f) Approval, and Wild and Scenic Rivers Review.

Federal Nexus – A project has a federal nexus when there is a connection with the federal government; i.e. when any of the following occur: federal land is within the project area, federal money is used in the project, or federal permits or approvals are required as part of the undertaking.

Federal Nexus – When the federal government is connected to a project either by owning land within the project limits, providing project funding, or by requiring a federal permit, approval, or concurrence.

Federal Nexus – When the federal government is connected to a project either by owning land within the project limits, providing project funding, or by requiring a permit.

Final Wetland Mitigation Plan – A document that includes description of all wetlands in the project area, wetland site plan, wetland site plan, wetland revegetation plan, standards of success, operation and maintenance of the mitigation site, and the monitoring plan.

Flood – A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from one of the following four sources: (1) Overflow of inland or tidal waters; (2) Unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source; (3) Mudslides or mudflows that are like a river of liquid mud on the surface of normally dry land area, as when earth is carried by a current of water and deposited along the path of the current; or (4) Collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or other body of water as a result of erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water.

Floodplain – Any land area susceptible to being inundated by flood waters from any source; usually the flat or nearly flat land on the bottom of a stream valley or tidal area that is covered by water during floods.

Floodplain Boundaries – Lines on flood hazard maps that show the limits of the 100- and 500-year floodplains.

Floodway – The channel of a river or watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively raising the water surface elevation more than a designated height. Normally, the base flood is defined as the 1 percent chance flood and the designated height is 1 foot above the pre-floodway condition.

Fugitive Dust – Particulate matter that is suspended in the air by wind or human activities and does not come out of an exhaust stack.

Function Assessment – Systematic method(s) designed to evaluate the presence and level of performance of wetland functions. Function Assessment methods include, but are not limited to, Reppert et al., Habitat Evaluation Procedure, Wetland Evaluation Technique, Indicator Value Assessment, WSDOT's BPJ Characterization Tool for Linear Projects, and Hydrogeomorphic methods.

G

General Permit – Issued by a federal or state agency to cover a certain type of activity in a certain geographic area (nationwide, regional or statewide). For most general permits, WSDOT must submit a "Notice of Intent" (NOI) to request coverage under a general permit for a particular activity; the agency may approve or disapprove coverage.

Groundwater – Water that occurs below the surface of the earth, contained in pore spaces. It is either passing through or standing in the soil and underlying strata and is free to move under the influence of gravity.

Growth Management Act (GMA) (Washington) – Requires counties and cities to "identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures that have historical or archaeological significance." (1990)

H

Habitat – Place where a plant or animal naturally or normally completes its life cycle. Also, the environment occupied by individuals of a particular species, population, or community.

HABS/HAER (Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record) – The official documentary collections of the National Parks service, the Library of Congress, and the American Institute of Architects preserving the heritage of historic structures through graphic and written records. HABS/HAER documentation may be assembled and used to mitigate adverse effects to historic structures that meet the National Register eligibility criteria; for example, when an historic bridge that cannot be rehabilitated is scheduled to be replaced, photos with records, etc., can be collected and archived as a way to preserve it.

Hazardous Material – A generic term for any media that contains organic or inorganic constituents considered toxic to humans or the environment. This term covers dangerous waste, problem waste, solid waste, and hazardous substances.

Hazardous Substance – Hazardous substances designated in 40 CFR 116 pursuant to Section 311 of the Clean Water Act include any materials that pose a threat to public health or the environment. Typical hazardous substances have one or more of the following characteristics: toxicity, corrosivity, ignitability, explosivity, and chemical reactivity. Federal regulation of hazardous substances excludes petroleum, crude oil, natural gas, natural gas liquids or synthetic gas usable for fuel. State regulation of hazardous substances includes petroleum products, which are addressed by the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA).

Hazardous Waste – Solid wastes designated in 40 CFR Part 261 and regulated as hazardous and/or mixed waste by the USEPA. Mixed waste includes both hazardous and radioactive components; waste that is solely radioactive is not regulated as hazardous waste. Hazardous waste includes specific listed waste that is generated from particular processes or activities or exhibits certain

reactive, corrosive, toxic, or ignitable characteristics. Hazardous waste is also regulated by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) as Dangerous Waste.

Herbicide – A chemical designed to control or destroy plants, weeds, or grasses.

Highways of Statewide Significance – RCW 47.05.022 designates these and sets standards. HSS and other facilities and services of statewide significance are essential public facilities.

Historic Context – A body of information about historic properties organized by theme, place, and time. It is the organization of information about prehistory and history according to the states of development occurring at various times and places.

Historic Preservation – Identification, evaluation, recordation, documentation, curation, acquisition, protection, management, rehabilitation, restoration, stabilization, maintenance and reconstruction, or any combination of the foregoing activities relating to historic properties. [16 USC 470w(8)]

Historic Property – A property or cultural resource that is listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register and, under SEPA, in state and local historic registers. Historic properties may be buildings or other structures, objects, sites, districts, archaeological resources, and traditional cultural properties (landscapes).

Hot-spot Analysis – An estimate of likely future localized CO and PM₁₀ pollutant concentrations and a comparison of those concentrations to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Hot-spot analysis assesses impacts on a scale smaller than the entire nonattainment or maintenance area (for example, congested roadway intersections and highways or transit terminals), and uses an air quality dispersion model to determine the effects of emissions on air quality (40 CFR 93.101). See 40 CFR 93.116 for analysis procedure.

Hydrology – The science that relates to the occurrence, properties, and movement of water on the earth. It includes water found in the oceans, lakes, wetlands, streams, and rivers, as well as in upland areas, above and below ground, and in the atmosphere.

I

Impact – Synonymous with “Effect”. Includes ecological impacts (such as the effects on natural resources and on the components, structures, and functioning of affected ecosystems), aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health impacts, whether direct, indirect, or cumulative. Effects may also include those resulting from actions that may have both beneficial and detrimental effects, even if on balance the agency believes the effect will be beneficial.

Impacted Community – Noise sensitive receptor sites (such as schools or neighborhoods) where people would be exposed to substantially increased noise levels or noise levels that approach abatement criteria due to a project.

Incidental Take – Take of listed species that results from, but is not the intention of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity.

Indicator – One of the specific environmental attributes measured or quantified through field sampling, remote sensing, or compilation of existing data from maps or land use reports, used to assess ecosystem condition or functions or exposure to environmental stress agents.

Indirect Application – As used in WSDOT’s Programmatic NPDES Permit for aquatic nuisance plant and algae control, means application of glyphosate to emergent vegetation for control of nuisance or noxious vegetation along public highways or in constructed or mitigated wetlands containing wetted surface at the time of the application, or which will contain wetted surfaces during the life of the active component of the herbicide.

Indirect Conversion – Acres remaining in a tract that is partially taken for right of way which (a) could no longer be farmed because the project would restrict access, or (b) would likely be converted because of accessibility to a new highway.

Indirect Impact/Effect – Indirect impacts (or effects) are caused by the proposed action or alternative and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems. (Note: “Indirect” is defined somewhat differently under NEPA and ESA rules.) For NEPA, see 40 CFR 1508.8.

Individual Permit – Issued to WSDOT for a particular activity or project that is not covered by a General Permit; usually needed infrequently for more complex or extensive projects.

Injection Well – Any disposal system designed to place fluids, including highway runoff and treated wastewater from onsite sewage disposal systems, into the subsurface. Such systems include bored, drilled, or dug holes; for example dry wells, French drains, and drainfields.

In-kind Compensation – Development of wetlands that are of the same system and class, as defined by Cowardin et al., (1979) in Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States, and that provide similar wetland functions and values as those wetlands adversely impacted by development activities.

Integrity – A measure of a property’s evolution and current condition, especially as it relates to the authenticity of a property’s historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property’s historic or prehistoric period.

Interdependent Effects – Effects caused by actions that have no independent utility apart from the proposed action.

Interrelated Effects – Effects created by a proposed action that would not occur "but for" that action.

Intrinsic quality – Scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, archaeological, or natural features that are considered representative, unique, irreplaceable, or distinctly characteristic of an area

Invasive Vegetation – Those (typically) nonnative plant species that often out compete native plant communities.

Investment Tax Credit (ITC) – Credit granted by the federal government against tax liability for the certified rehabilitation of buildings for income-producing purposes. Made available by the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981.

Irretrievable – Impossible to retrieve or recover.

Irreversible – Impossible to reverse.

Isolated Wetland – A wetland not within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as defined in the Clean Water Act Section 404. Ecology regulates these wetlands by pre-approving Administrative Orders.

J

Joint Development – Participating jointly with a local jurisdiction or private party in an element of the project or impact mitigation.

Jurisdiction – Governing authority which interprets and applies laws and regulations.

Jurisdictional Wetlands – All naturally occurring wetlands, some wetlands unintentionally created as the result of construction activities, and those created specifically for the compensation of wetland losses. These wetlands are regulated by the Army Corps of Engineers and local jurisdictions. (Ditches created in non-wetland areas that support wetland vegetation are not usually considered jurisdictional wetlands.) Check with the Environmental Services Office for site-specific clarification.

K

Keeper of the National Register – Maintains the National Register of Historic Places, and makes final decisions on listing of properties nominated to the National Register.

L

Landscape Unit – An area or volume of distinct landscape character that forms a spatially enclosed unit at ground level, differentiated from other areas by its slope and its pattern of land cover. A unique segment of the landscape.

Large Woody Debris – Conifer or deciduous logs, limbs, or root wads of a certain diameter which interact with the stream channel and contribute to the habitat diversity of the stream.

Late-Successional – Stage in forest development that includes mature and old growth forest and associated plant and animal species.

Level of Service (LOS) – A tool for identifying the degree of capacity at which a public service or infrastructure operates. The most commonly used is the LOS A-F standard for capacity, volume, and delays at a traffic intersection, F being the worst congestion and delay time period.

License – Issued to an individual, for example a WSDOT maintenance employee who sprays insecticides or herbicides or operates a rest area water system. WSDOT contractors must obtain their own licenses for such activities.

Listed Species – Any species of fish, wildlife, or plant which has been determined to be endangered or threatened under Section 4 of the ESA.

Low-income – A person whose median household income is at or below the Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines for that size of household.

Low-income Population – Any readily identifiable group of low-income persons who live in a geographic area, and, if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed/transient persons (such as migrant workers or Native Americans) who would be similarly affected by a proposed DOT program, policy, or activity.

M

Maintenance Area – An area that previously was considered a “Nonattainment Area” but has achieved compliance with the NAAQS.

Management Plan – Typically addressed appropriate treatments and preservation strategies for managing historic properties. Often included as an item in a Programmatic Agreement (PA – see definition).

Minority – A person who is: (a) Black (a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa); (b) Hispanic (a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or the Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race); (c) Asian (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands); or (d) American Indian or Alaskan Native (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition).

Minority Population – Any readily identifiable groups of minority persons who live in geographic proximity, and if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed/transient persons (such as migrant workers or Native Americans) who will be similarly affected by a proposed DOT program, policy, or activity.

Mitigation – (1) Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action, (2) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree of the action, (3) rectifying the impact by repairing or enhancing the affected environment, (4) reducing or eliminating the impact over time, (5) compensating for the impact by replacing or substituting resources or environment, or (6) monitoring the impact and taking appropriate corrective measures. Also referred to as “mitigation sequencing”. For NEPA, see 40 CFR 1508.2. For SEPA, see WAC 197-11-768.

Mitigation Bank – A site where wetlands are restored, created, enhanced, or in exceptional circumstances, preserved, expressly for the purpose of providing compensatory mitigation in advance of authorized impacts to aquatic resources. .

Mitigation Bank Credit – A unit of trade representing the increase in the ecological value of the site, as measured by acreage, functions, and values, or by some other assessment method.

Mitigation Bank Currency – The medium of exchange of credits for debits in a mitigation bank. The currency represents an amount of wetland area and functions and values.

Mitigation Bank Debit Project – A project that uses credits from a wetland mitigation bank to fulfill regulatory requirements for compensation of impacts to aquatic resources. A debit project may require more than one regulatory approval under federal, state and local rules.

Mitigation Bank Instrument (MBI) – The documentation of agency and bank sponsor concurrence on the objectives and administration of the bank. The MBI describes in detail the physical and legal characteristics of the bank, including the service area, and how the bank will be established and operated.

Mitigation Bank Service Area – A designated geographic area (e.g., watershed, county) wherein a mitigation bank can reasonably be expected to provide appropriate compensation for impacts to wetlands and/or other aquatic resources.

Mitigation Bank Sponsor – Any public or private entity responsible for establishing and, in most circumstances, operating a mitigation bank.

Mitigation Measures – Actions required to mitigate adverse effects to historic properties. Usually stipulated in an MOA/PA.

Modified Natural – River area where the associated natural environment of the river area is relatively undisturbed with little evidence of cultural development and natural resource management. Forest roads, hunters’ cabins, and semi-primitive campgrounds may be evident. Natural features dominate the viewscape.

Monitoring – The systematic evaluation of a mitigation site to determine the degree to which the site meets its performance standards and to determine if modifications in the maintenance or management of the site is necessary to achieve the ultimate success standards.

Multiple Property Nomination – A registration of several significant properties linked by a common property type or historic context. Submitted to SHPO and NPS on National Register Multiple Property Documentation Forms (NPS 10-900-b), known as “MPDs.” See National Register Bulletin 16B.

N

National Historic Landmark – Historic properties of national significance, established by the Historic Sites Act of 1935 [PL 74-292]. NHLs are also listed in the National Register. [National Historic Landmark Program, 36 CFR 65.]

National Register of Historic Places – The nation's official listing of properties significant in national, state and/or local history, meeting one or more criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4). Listing is commemorative, but may require compliance by property owners with federal/state/local laws and regulations. May also provide private property owners with opportunities to take advantage of preservation incentives, such as easements and tax relief.

Nationwide Permit – A type of General Permit issued by the Corps for either Section 404 or Section 10 permits.

Nationwide Rivers Inventory – A national listing of rivers potentially suitable for inclusion in the National Rivers System.

Natural Wetlands – Wetlands that exist due to natural forces alone, or unintentionally developed through construction or management practices which alter hydrology. Natural wetlands can be found in unusual areas, including filled areas, some ditches, inactive borrow pits, ponds, and agricultural fields. Natural wetlands are protected by federal, state, and local regulations as well as WSDOT's internal policies.

Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC) – Noise levels for various activities or land uses which, when approached or exceeded, are considered to be traffic noise impacts.

Nomination – Official request to have a property listed in the National Register. Documentation is placed on a National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (NPS 10-900) and submitted to the CLG (if appropriate), the SHPO, and the Keeper of the National Register (see definitions). See National Register *Bulletin 16A*.

Nonattainment Area – Area that exceeds health-based NAAQS for certain air pollutants designated by the USEPA. Current nonattainment areas are shown in WSDOT's GIS Workbench.

Non-contributing Element (Resource) – A building, site, structure, or object that *does not* add to the historic architectural qualities, historic associations or archaeological values for which a property is significant because: (a) it was not present during the period of significance; (b) due to alterations, disturbances, additions, or other changes, it no longer possesses historic integrity reflecting its character at that time or is incapable of yielding important information about the period, or (c) it does not independently meet the National Register criteria. See National Register *Bulletin 16A*.

Non-jurisdictional Wetlands – Non-jurisdictional wetlands include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland sites, including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, canals excavated in uplands, stormwater detention ponds, wastewater treatment facilities created in uplands, and certain agricultural activities and landscape amenities created in uplands. Grass-lined swales and wastewater treatment facilities can be constructed in wetlands but must be so designated and specifically designed for water treatment purposes. Mitigation is required to compensate for the wetland lost to such a facility. The Shoreline Management Act and Growth Management Act include as non-jurisdictional those wetlands created after July 1, 1990, that were unintentionally created as a result of the construction of a road, street, or highway. WSDOT has a "no net loss" policy regarding wetlands and will mitigate impacts to wetlands created after that date.

O

Object – A construction primarily artistic in nature or relatively small in scale.

Old Growth – Forest stand with moderate to high canopy closure; a multilayered, multispecies canopy dominated by large overstory trees; a high incidence of large trees with large, broken tops, and other indications of decadence; numerous large snags and heavy accumulations of logs and other woody debris on the ground.

Operating Permit – Issued to WSDOT to operate a water system, water treatment system, or other facility.

Out-of-Kind Compensation – Compensation that replaces one wetland system and class, as defined by Cowardin, with another.

Ozone (O₃) – A highly reactive form of oxygen that occurs naturally in the earth's upper atmosphere (stratosphere). Stratospheric ozone is a desirable gas that filters the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Ozone at ground level is not emitted directly into the air; instead it forms in the atmosphere as a result of a series of complex sunlight-activated chemical transformations between oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and hydrocarbons which together are precursors of ozone.

P

Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) – Includes both naturally occurring and artificial particles with a diameter of less than 10 microns or 2.5 microns respectively. Sources of particulate matter include sea salt, pollen, smoke from forest fires and wood stoves, road dust, industrial emissions, and agricultural dust. Particles of this size are small enough to be drawn deep into the respiratory system where they can contribute to infection and reduced resistance to disease.

Patent – Legal title to real property. Granted by the federal government for parcels of the public domain when alienation occurs as the result of homesteading or similar action.

Performance Measures – Quantifiable thresholds of objectives capable of being measured while the site is being monitored during the intermediate years. These parameters provide an indication as to whether or not the site is progressing as intended. Failure to meet a performance measure should initiate adaptive management. .

Permit – A document required by law that authorizes a specific type of activity under certain conditions.

Pollutant – Any substance of such character and in such quantities that upon reaching the environment (soil, water, or air), is degrading in effect so as to impair the environment's usefulness or render it offensive.

Preservation (Protection/Maintenance) – The removal of a threat to, or preventing the decline of, wetland conditions by an action in or near a wetland. This term includes the purchase of land or easements, repairing water control structures or fences, or structural protection such as repairing a barrier island. This term also includes activities commonly associated with the term preservation. Preservation does not result in a gain of wetland acres but may result in a gain in functions and will be used only in exceptional circumstances.

Prime Farmland – Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor, and without intolerable soil erosion. Prime farmland includes land that possesses the above characteristics and may include land currently used as cropland, pastureland, rangeland, or forestland. It does not include land already in or committed to urban development or water storage.

Primitive – River area that is in pristine condition with minimal evidence of human activity.

Problem Waste – Pursuant to WAC 173-350 (as amended in March 2005), problem wastes are defined as soil, sediment, sludge and liquids (groundwater, surface water, decontamination water, etc.) that are removed during the cleanup of a remedial action site, a dangerous waste site closure, or other cleanup efforts and actions that contain hazardous substances but are not designated as dangerous waste pursuant to WAC 173 303. Examples of the type of waste streams that may be disposed under this definition include: (1) Contaminated soil, sludge, groundwater, surface water, and construction demolition debris containing any combination of the following compounds: petroleum hydrocarbons, volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls, heavy metals, herbicides, and/or pesticides; (2) Contaminated dredge spoils (sediments) resulting from the dredging of surface waters of the state where contaminants are present in the dredge spoils at concentrations not suitable for open water disposal and the dredge spoils are not dangerous wastes and are not regulated by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act; and (3) Materials containing asbestos.

Programmatic Biological Assessment – A biological assessment designed to cover programs, not specific projects.

Programmatic Permit – A General Permit issued to cover a certain type of program such as bridge and ferry terminal washing/cleaning, culvert maintenance, or use of insecticides for mosquito control.

Project Description – A narrative written by the proponent to describe the project proposal. It may include explanations of the existing physical, environmental, social, and economic setting in which the proposed project is situated, a legal description of the location, and an explanation of the intended improvements.

Project Permit – Issued to WSDOT for of a new construction or major maintenance project.

Property Type – Historic properties sharing physical or associative characteristics.

Proposed Species – Any species of fish, wildlife, or plant that is proposed by NOAA Fisheries or USFWS for federal listing under Section 4 of the ESA.

Public Service – SEPA lists fire, police, schools, parks or other recreational facilities, maintenance, communications, water/stormwater, sewer/solid waste, and other governmental services or utilities as elements of the built environment to be considered during the environmental review process.

R

Recreational River Areas – Rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Regionally Significant Project – A transportation project (other than an exempt project) that serves regional transportation needs, such as access to and from the region, major activity centers in the region, major planned developments such as new retail malls, sports complexes, or transportation terminals as well as most terminals themselves. Such projects would normally be included in the modeling of a metropolitan area's transportation network, including at a minimum all principal arterial highways and all fixed guideway transit facilities that offer an alternative to regional highway travel (40 CFR 93.101).

Registration Requirements – Attributes of significance and integrity qualifying a property for listing in the National Register; especially important in establishing eligibility for each property type in Multiple Property submissions.

Rehabilitation – The process of returning a property to a state of utility, through repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions and features of the property which are significant to its historic, architectural, and cultural values. [36 CFR 67.2]

Relocation – The adjustment of utility facilities required by a highway project. Includes removing and installing facilities, acquiring necessary property rights in the new location, moving or rearranging existing facilities, or changing the type of facility, including any necessary safety and protective measures. Also means constructing a replacement facility, functionally equal to the existing facility, where necessary for continuous operation of the utility service, project economy, or for staging highway construction.

Resource – Referred to in NEPA and SEPA implementing regulations as “natural or depletable” resources (CEQ 1502.16; WAC 197-11-440 (6)) and renewable or nonrenewable resources (WAC 197-11-444). FHWA Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (October 30, 1987) refers to “natural, physical, human, and fiscal resources” in guidance on irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources.

Responsible Official – Official of the lead agency who has been delegated responsibility for complying with NEPA/SEPA procedures.

Restoration – The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural or historic functions to a former or degraded wetland. For the purpose of tracking net gains in wetland acres, restoration is divided into:

Re-establishment: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural or historic functions to a former wetland. Activities could include removing fill material, plugging ditches, or breaking drain tiles. Re-establishment results in a gain in wetland acres.

Rehabilitation: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of repairing natural or historic functions of a degraded wetland. Activities could involve breaching a dike to reconnect wetlands to a floodplain or return tidal influence to a wetland. Rehabilitation results in a gain in wetland function but does not result in a gain in wetland acres.

Rural – River area characterized by extensive agricultural and other resource-related activities. Cultural development is typically scattered homes and communities.

Rural Historic Landscape – See **Cultural Landscape**, and National Register *Bulletin* 30.

S

Salmonid – Fish of the family *Salmonidae* which include salmon and trout.

Scenic Byway – Public road having special scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, archaeological, and/or natural qualities that have been recognized as such through legislation or some other official declaration for its scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, archaeological, or natural qualities.

Scenic Corridor Management Plan – Written document that specifies the actions, procedures, controls, operational practices, and administrative strategies needed to maintain the scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, archaeological, and natural qualities of a scenic byway.

Scenic River Areas – Rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundment, with shorelines or watersheds still largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Scoping – Formal scoping for an EIS includes identifying the range of proposed actions, alternatives, environmental elements and impacts, and mitigation measures to be analyzed in an environmental document. Public and agency scoping meetings are generally

associated with this activity for NEPA scoping activities. (SEPA does not require a public hearing during the SEPA scoping for an EIS.)

Secondary Effect/Impact – Same as indirect effect under NEPA.

Setting – Quality of integrity applying to the physical environment of an historic property.

Shorelines – Land within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark of waters of the state, including marine waters, rivers, streams, lakes, and reservoirs, and their associated wetlands, floodways, deltas, and floodplains. The Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58.030 (2d)) excludes streams with a mean annual flow of 20 cfs or less and lakes smaller than 20 acres (including adjacent wetlands).

Shorelines of Statewide Significance – Shorelines for which there is special interest in preserving the natural characteristics and encouraging and increasing public access.

Significant Impact – The significance of potential impact on the natural or built environment depends upon context, setting, likelihood of occurrence, and severity, intensity, magnitude, or duration of the impact. WAC 197-11-330 specifies a process, including criteria and procedures, for determining whether a proposal is likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact.

Site – Any alternative alignment on a highway project, including areas converted directly (within the right of way) or indirectly by a proposed action (see “Indirect Conversion”). Also, for cultural resources, the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archaeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure.

Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) – Any aquifer which (1) is so designated by USEPA, (2) supplies 50 percent or more of the drinking water to the population living over the aquifer, (3) has distinct hydrogeological boundaries, and (4) for which there is no economically feasible alternative source of drinking water if it should be contaminated.

Solid Waste – State regulations define solid waste as all putrescible and nonputrescible solid and semisolid wastes including, but not limited to, garbage, rubbish, ashes, industrial wastes, swill, sewage sludge, demolition and construction wastes, abandoned vehicles or parts thereof, problem wastes as defined above, and recyclable materials. Federal regulations define solid waste as any garbage, refuse, sludge from a wastewater treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility, and other discarded material, including solid, liquid, semisolid, or contained gaseous material, resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations and from community activities. Solid waste includes hazardous and problem wastes.

Source Water Protection Area – Area protected for drinking water supplies.

Special Flood Hazard Area – An area with a one percent chance of being flooded in any given year; hence the property is in the 100-year floodplain. The special flood hazard areas are further defined as numbered and un-numbered “A” zones which describe whether the determination is based on approximate or detailed flood studies, and whether formal BFEs have been established.

State Implementation Plan (SIP) – Framework for complying with federal law (40 CFR Part 51) requiring that the state take action to quickly reduce air pollution to healthful levels in a non-attainment area, and to provide enough controls to keep the area clean for 20 years. States have to develop a SIP that explains how it will do its job under the CAA. A SIP is a collection of the regulations a state will use to clean up polluted areas. USEPA must approve the SIP, and if a SIP is not acceptable, USEPA can take over, enforcing the CAA in that state. WSDOT projects must conform to the SIP before the FHWA and the USEPA can approve construction.

Stormwater – Rainwater that flows over land and into natural and artificial drainage systems. Stormwater runoff is a major transporter of nonpoint source pollutants.

Structure – Functional constructions made usually for purposes other than creating shelter.

Study River – River area to be studied to determine if it qualifies for addition to the National Rivers System.

Substantial Development – Any development of which the total cost, or fair market value, exceeds \$2,500.00, or any development that materially interferes with normal public use of the water or shorelines of the state.

Success Standards – Parameters, generally measured during the last (close-out) year of monitoring, to determine whether or not the objectives were achieved, and the site is in compliance with the terms of the permit. A contingency plan, for remediation, is put into effect should the objectives fail to achieve their individual targets.

Surface Runoff – Overland flow of water.

Surface Water – All water naturally open to the atmosphere, such as rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, streams, seas, and estuaries.

Suspended Sediment – Fine material or soil particles that remain suspended by the current until deposited in areas of weaker current. Can be measured in a laboratory as “Total Suspended Solids” (TSS).

T

Take – Defined under the ESA as “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or attempt to engage in any such conduct,” including modification to a species’ habitat.

Threatened Species – Any species which is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Threshold Determination – This determination by the responsible official of the lead agency is part of the SEPA process. This decision determines if an EIS is required; if so a Determination of Significance is issued. If project impacts are not significant (i.e. requiring an EIS), a Determination of Non-Significance is issued with an environmental checklist. A Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance results in an expanded environmental checklist with increased emphasis on the mitigation of project impacts.

Traditional Cultural Property – A place eligible for inclusion in the National Register because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that are (a) rooted in that community’s history, and (b) important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.

Traffic Noise Impacts – Impacts which occur when the predicted traffic noise levels approach or exceed the Noise Abatement Criteria or when the predicted traffic noise levels substantially exceed the existing noise levels.

Transportation Facilities of Statewide Significance – Defined in RCW 47.06.140 to include the interstate highway system, interregional state principal arterials including ferry connections that serve statewide travel, intercity passenger rail services, intercity high-speed ground transportation, major passenger intermodal terminals excluding all airport facilities and services, the freight railroad system, the Columbia/Snake navigable river system, marine port facilities and services that are related solely to marine activities affecting international and interstate trade, and high-capacity transportation systems serving regions as defined in RCW 81.104.015.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – A staged, multiyear intermodal program of transportation projects covering a metropolitan planning area which is consistent with the state and metropolitan transportation plan, and developed pursuant to 23 CFR Part 450. The entire program must conform with the NAAQS in order for any federal funding to be granted for individual projects (except exempt projects).

Turbidity – A condition in water caused by the presence of suspended material resulting in scattering and absorption of light rays.

Type I Project – A proposed highway construction at a new location or the physical alteration of an existing highway that significantly changes either the horizontal or vertical alignment or increases the number of traffic through lanes.

Type II or Retrofit Project – A proposed project for noise abatement on an existing highway or highway configuration.

U

Undertaking – Any activity that can result in changes in the character or use of historic properties. The activity must be under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a federal agency or licensed or assisted by a federal agency. [36 CFR 800.2(o).]

Unique Farmland – Land other than prime farmland that is used for production of specific high-value food and fiber crops. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high quality or high yields of specific crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Examples of such crops include lentils, nuts, annually cropped white wheat, cranberries, fruits, and vegetables.

Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Grid System – Method for locating historic properties using USGS maps and measurements cited in linear, decimal units. Measurements are referred to as “UTMs.”

Urban – River area that is intensively modified by cultural activities, primarily residential and light commercial development. The river has high water quality and highly rated natural features such as historical and archaeological sites, fisheries resources, wildlife, or recreational values.

Urban Growth Area – The identified boundary that allows for higher density and focused infrastructure development to control growth from “sprawling” into the identified rural and sensitive areas of local jurisdictions.

Utility – Privately, publicly, or cooperatively owned lines, facilities, and systems for producing, transmitting, or distributing communications, cable television, electric power, light, heat, gas, oil, crude products, water, steam, waste, stormwater not connected with highway drainage, and other similar commodities, including any fire or police signal systems, street lighting systems, and traffic control system interties, which directly or indirectly serve the public. (WSDOT *Utilities Manual* (M 22-87), Chapter 2.)

V

Viability – Ability of a population to maintain sufficient size so it persists over time in spite of normal fluctuations in numbers; usually expressed as a probability of maintaining a specific population for a defined period.

Viewer Group – Classes of viewers differentiated by their visual response to the facility and its setting. Response is affected by viewer activity, awareness, and values.

Viewer Sensitivity – The viewer's variable receptivity to the elements within the environment they are viewing. Sensitivity is affected by viewer activity and awareness.

Viewshed – All the surface areas visible from an observer's viewpoint.

Visual Element – A particular feature of the visual environment.

Visual Function – The component of a transportation project that is designed and experienced primarily from a visual perspective; includes positive guidance and navigation, distraction screening, corridor continuity, roadway and adjacent property buffering, and scenic view preservation.

Visual Quality – Character of the landscape, which generally gives visual value to a setting.

W

Wastewater – Literally, water that has been used for some purpose and discarded, or wasted; typically liquid discharged from domestic residential, business, and industrial sources that contains a variety of wastes.

Water Right – Legal authorization to use a certain amount of public water for specific beneficial purposes.

Watershed – The land area that drains into a stream; the watershed for a major river may encompass a number of smaller watersheds that ultimately combine at a common point. Also, a basin including all water and land areas that drain to a common body of water.

Wellhead Protection Area – Area managed by a community to protect groundwater drinking water supplies.

Wetland – Area that is inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Wetlands do not usually include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland sites, including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscape amenities. However, wetlands may include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland areas to mitigate conversion of wetlands, if permitted by the appropriate authority.

Wetland Buffer – The area adjacent to a wetland that serves to protect the wetland from outside influences. Wetland buffers also contribute to the integral functions of the wetland. Regulated buffer widths vary depending upon the quality of the wetland and guidelines established by the local jurisdiction under the state Growth Management Act. Required buffer widths are identified in the project's wetland/biology report. Wetland buffers must be shown on contract plans sheets. No work may occur within an identified wetland buffer area unless it has been approved by the appropriate permitting agency.

Wetland Functions – Wetland functions are the physical, chemical, and biological processes or attributes that are vital to the integrity of wetland/upland landscape interrelationships (landscape systems).

Wetland Inventory – A wetland inventory is a data collection process during which information about the presence, approximate extent, and in some cases the characteristics of wetlands are collected. Inventories can be general (e.g., aerial photographs) or site-specific (through field inventory work).

Wetland Values – Wetland values are those attributes that, although not necessarily essential to the integrity of the landscape systems, are perceived as valuable to society (Adamus et al., 1991).

Wild River Areas – Areas or sections of rivers of the United States that are free of impoundment and generally inaccessible, except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially un-touched and waters unpolluted. They represent vestiges of America prior to European settlement.

Wilderness – Areas defined in the Wilderness Act where "the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man is a visitor who does not remain..."